

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03070 010402Z

12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 L-02 SCS-03 SCA-01

H-02 PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 /044 W

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O R 010246Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9807

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3070

STADIS////////////////////////////////////7

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: ROKG REFUSAL TO RENEW FATHER SINNOTT'S

RESIDENCE PERMIT

REF: SEOUL 3069

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF FATHER SINNOTT'S  
VARIOUS PROBLEMS WITH ROKG AND EMBASSY'S EFFORTS TO  
LEND HIM ASSISTANCE. THIS INFORMATION MAY BE USEFUL  
IN ANY DEPT DISCUSSIONS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND  
OTHERS WHO SHOW INTEREST IN CASE. END SUMMARY.

1. ALTHOUGH ROKG IN DENYING FATHER SINNOTT AN EXTENSION  
OF HIS RESIDENCE PERMIT DID NOT STATE SPECIFIC REASONS,  
HIS WELL PUBLICIZED ACTIONS AND PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS  
PROTEST MOVEMENTS CLEARLY HAD VIOLATED KOREAN LAWS ON  
SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

2. SINCE BEGINNING OF YEAR HE HAD BEEN WARNED THREE  
TIMES BY INCHON IMMIGRATION OFFICE TO REFRAIN FROM  
PARTICIPATION IN CHURCH PROTESTS VIEWED BY ROKG AS OF  
POLITICAL NATURE. NEVERTHELESS, HE PERSISTED ON A  
REGULAR BASIS TO PARTICIPATE IN CHURCH PROTESTS,  
MARCHES IN THE STREET, PROTEST PRAYER MEETINGS AND  
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 03070 010402Z

DEMONSTRATION RALLIES ON BEHALF OF FAMILIES OF PRP

PRISONERS AND TONGA ILBO REPORTERS. HE BECAME ESPECIALLY MILITANT AGAINST THE AUTHORITIES WHEN KOREAN SUPREME COURT UPHELD THE PRP DEATH SENTENCES, WHEN THESE SENTENCES WERE CARRIED OUT THE NEXT DAY, AND WHEN BODIES OF EXECUTED MEN WERE CONFISCATED.

3. WHILE PARTICIPATING IN DEMONSTRATIONS FOR THE CAUSES HE REPRESENTS, HE HAD BECOME INVOLVED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS IN SCUFFLES WITH POLICEMEN AND KCIA AGENTS AND HAD ADMITTEDLY SHOUTED INSULTS AT THEM. (FATHER SINNOTT WAS OBSERVED BY EMBASSY OFFICERS STRIKING ROK POLICEMEN DURING NOVEMBER DEMONSTRATION AT EMBASSY). MOREOVER, HE HAD ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS PLACED PROTEST ADS IN TONGA ILBO DENOUNCING THE REPRESSIVE CHARACTER OF ROKG IN TERMS WHICH WERE BOUND TO BE VIEWED AS OFFENSIVE BY GOVT OFFICIALS.

4. EVEN SINCE LAST OFFICIAL WARNING ON APRIL 14 NOT TO ASSOCIATE WITH PRP FAMILIES OR TONGA ILBO REPORTERS NOR PUBLICLY DEFEND THEIR CAUSES, FATHER SINNOTT CONTINUED TO PARTICIPATE IN DEMONSTRATIONS AND PRAYER MEETINGS ON THEIR BEHALF. HE TOLD EMBOFF THAT DURING RECENT DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF TONGA ILBO HE HAD SHOUTED INSULTS AT TONGA ILBO MANAGEMENT, AND THAT TONGA ILBO HAD SENT LETTER OF PROTEST TO FOREIGN MINISTRY COMPLAINING ABOUT HIM. HIS PROTEST ACTIVITIES HAVE CONTINUED EVEN AFTER HE RECEIVED HIS OFFICIAL NOTICE TO LEAVE KOREA BY APRIL 30.

5. ON APRIL 25 GROUP OF FOREIGN CATHOLIC PRIESTS SENT PETITION TO MINISTER OF JUSTICE REQUESTING REVERSAL OF DECISION ON FATHER SINNOTT. ON APRIL 28 CARDINAL KIM FOR FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN TWO MONTHS ADDRESSED PRAYER MEETING AT MYONGDONG CATHEDRAL GIVING CHURCH SUPPORT TO FATHER SINNOTT AND SAYING THAT HIS EXPULSION WOULD HURT CATHOLIC CHURCH IN KOREA.

6. EMBASSY HAD ASSISTED FATHER SINNOTT UPON HIS REQUEST ON APRIL 14 AND 25 WHEN HE WAS SUMMONED TO

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 03070 010402Z

INCHON IMMIGRATION OFFICE BY SENDING CONSULAR OFFICER TO BE PRESENT. MOREOVER, SINCE CODEL FRASER VISIT IN MARCH HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS TO DISCUSS HIS CASE.

7. SINCE EMBASSY BECAME AWARE OF KOREAN INTENTION TO REFUSE RENEWAL OF HIS RESIDENCE PERMIT, AMBASSADOR HAS DISCUSSED CASE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AND PRIMIN'S

OFFICE ON THREE OCCASIONS, SEEKING TO DISSUADE ROKG FROM CARRYING OUT EXPULSION. PREVIOUS OCCASIONS OF EMBASSY INTERVENTION WITH ROKG ON HIS BEHALF WERE ON NOVEMBER 14 WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED DURING A STREET DEMONSTRATION AND DURING BRIEF DEMONSTRATION OF WIVES OF PRP PRISONERS ON DAY BEFORE PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT TO SEOUL. ON NOVEMBER 14 AMBASSADOR OBTAINED HIS RELEASE FROM POLICE CUSTODY AFTER SEVERAL HOURS OF DETENTION. AGAIN ON NOVEMBER 21 EMBASSY REQUESTED SEOUL POLICE TO RELEASE ALL THOSE ARRESTED ON EMBASSY GROUNDS, INCLUDING FATHER SINNOTT, AND UPON HIS REFUSAL TO LEAVE POLICE STATION ALERTED FELLOW MARYKNOLL PRIEST AND MARYKNOLL SUPERIOR, WHO FINALLY PERSUADED HIM TO LEAVE POLICE STATION.  
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